

PROM KHARTOUM TO LONDON

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an audience would be canceled in case you should take any action while here that might be construed as countenancing the Methodist mission work here, as in the case of Mr. Fairbanks. Although fully aware of your intentions to confine your visit to the King and Pope, the covert threat in the Vatican's communication to you is none the less objectionable, and one side or the other is sure to make capital out of the action you might take. The press is already preparing for the struggle.

*My answer to Ambassador Leishman, March 25:*

Please present the following through Monsignor Kennedy:

It would be a real pleasure to me to be presented to the Holy Father, for whom I entertain a high respect both personally and as the head of a great Church. I fully recognize his entire right to receive or not to receive whomsoever he chooses for any reason that seems good to him, and if he does not receive me I shall not for a moment question the propriety of his action. On the other hand, I in my turn must decline to make any stipulations, or submit to any conditions which in any way limit my freedom of conduct. I trust on April 5 he will find it convenient to receive me.

*Ambassador Leishman to me, March 28, transmitting following message from Monsignor Kennedy:* His Holiness will be much pleased to grant an audience to Mr. Koosevelt, for whom he entertains great esteem, both personally and as President of the United States. His Holi-

ness quite recognizes Mr. Roosevelt's entire right to freedom of conduct. On the other hand, in view of the circumstances, for which neither His Holiness nor Mr. Roosevelt is responsible, an audience could not occur except on the understanding expressed in the former message.

*My answer to Ambassador Leishman, March 29:*

Proposed presentation is of course now impossible.

At the time two men were acting as my volunteer secretaries ; Lawrence Abbott, one of the editors of *The Outlook*,